

CONCEPT 3: ENHANCED PARK VALUES BY BALANCING CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION

Overview

Only minor zoning changes from Concept 1 would occur under this concept. A few areas zoned as cultural landscape would be reclassified as natural areas, protecting sensitive natural resources, while two historic ranching districts would be established to preserve working agricultural landscapes. Throughout the parks, natural resource monitoring, and restoration efforts would be expanded to protect the parks’ ecological resources. Some access corridors into the wilderness zone would be removed, dispersing visitor use and increasing wilderness values. Only minor additional park facilities would be built if existing structures were not available.

Cultural Resources Management

The parks’ historic resources would receive the same level of protection as they have under the current management. The cultural resource program would continue to focus on protection of archeological sites and the preservation of historic landscapes and structures. Under this concept, a special archeological zone would be established to protect the sacred sites and cultural identity of the Coast Miwok people. Ranching would be continued and promoted to preserve historic cultural landscapes. In areas of sensitive natural resources ranching would be excluded.

Natural Areas, Wilderness and Resource Management

Under this concept, a variety of actions would be conducted to help preserve park natural resources. National Park Service staff would continue exotic species removal. Ecosystem restoration would be a major focus. Scientific research and species monitoring would be expanded to gather more baseline data on ecosystem health and population trends. Marine protected areas and research facilities could be created (in cooperation with California Department of Fish & Game) to better understand and preserve the ocean environment that surrounds the park.

Visitor Opportunities and Experiences

Changes in zoning would create a diversity of activities that are presently nonexistent. A backcountry camping zone for low-density, low-impact camping would be opened. Elsewhere in the parks, new group and individual camps would open and expand access. In the front country, all opportunities and access currently available would be maintained. Improvements at trail heads, a safe bike lane, a developed drive-in campground and roadside improvements could be potentially added. The winter shuttle operations would continue.



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Below: Concept 3 map

